

Claims*What is claimed is:*

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10 A method of providing sustained release of a drug to moist tissue comprising applying to said moist tissue a drug delivery device which is adherent to said moist tissue and includes a level of N,O-carboxymethylchitosan as a component thereof to provide said adherence, said drug delivery device further containing a sufficient quantity of the drug to be delivered to provide sustained release of said drug and permeation into said moist tissue or into the surrounding cavity.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein said moist tissue comprises mucosal tissue.

15 3. The method of claim 2 wherein said mucosal tissue comprises tissue of the oral cavity.

4. The method of claim 3 wherein said oral cavity tissue comprises buccal tissue.

20 5. The method of claim 4 wherein said drug is selected from the group consisting of melatonin, chlorpheniramine, chlorhexidine, tetracycline and mixtures thereof.

25 6. The method of claim 4 wherein said drug delivery device is used to treat a condition selected from the group consisting of mouth sores and periodontal disease.

7. The method of claim 4 wherein said drug delivery device is used to deliver a systemic therapeutic effect.

30 8. The method of claim 3 wherein said device comprises a structural support material selected from the group consisting of rubber, plastic, resin, natural and synthetic polymers, and mixtures thereof.

35 9. The method of claim 2 wherein said mucosal tissue comprises vaginal tissue.

10. The method of claim 9 wherein said drug is selected from a group consisting of progestins, estrogens, antifungal agents, antibacterial agents, anti-viral agents, proteins and peptides.

5 11. The method of claim 10 wherein said drug comprises levonorgestrel.

12. The method of claim 2 wherein said mucosal tissue comprises ocular tissue.

10 13. The method of claim 12 wherein said drug is selected from the group consisting of beta blockers and glaucoma treating drugs.

14. The method of claim 2 wherein said mucosal tissue comprises the gastrointestinal tract.

15 15. The method of claim 1 wherein said moist tissue is tissue in a serous cavity.

20 16. The method of claim 15 wherein said moist tissue is tissue within the pleural, pericardial or peritoneal cavities.

17. The method of claim 1 wherein said moist tissue comprises bone.

25 18. A method of adhering moist tissue together comprising the steps of applying a medical device which is adherent to said moist tissue and can effect such adherence, said medical device containing N,O-carboxymethylchitosan as a component thereof.

30 19. The method of claim 18 wherein said medical device further comprises a tissue sealant.

20. The method of claim 18 wherein said moist tissue is at the site of a surgical incision.

35 21. The method of claim 19 wherein said tissue sealant comprises a fibrin glue.

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22. The method of claim 19 wherein said tissue sealant comprises a cyanoacrylate.

23. The method of claim 19 wherein said tissues to be sealed are selected from the group consisting of lung tissues, heart tissues and intestinal tissue.

24. The method of claim 18 wherein said tissue adhered together comprises a defect in said moist tissue.

10 25. A method of preventing surgical adhesions in moist tissue comprising the steps of applying a medical device which is adherent to said moist tissue and can effect such adherence, said medical device containing N,O-carboxymethylchitosan as a component thereof, said medical device further comprising a surgical adhesion barrier.

15 26. The method of claim 24 wherein said surgical adhesion barrier comprises a fibrin glue.

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